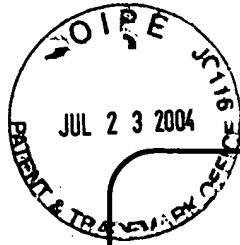


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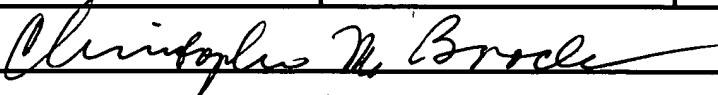
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		Application Number	10/717,785
		Filing Date	11/20/2003
		First Named Inventor	Richard Veil et al.
		Art Unit	
		Examiner Name	
Total Number of Pages in This Submission		Attorney Docket Number	4965-000168

ENCLOSURES (check all that apply)

<input type="checkbox"/> Fee Transmittal Form	<input type="checkbox"/> Drawing(s)	<input type="checkbox"/> After Allowance Communication to Technology Center (TC)			
<input type="checkbox"/> Fee Attached	<input type="checkbox"/> Licensing-related Papers	<input type="checkbox"/> Appeal Communication to Board of Appeals and Interferences			
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<input type="checkbox"/> After Final	<input type="checkbox"/> Petition to Convert to a Provisional Application	<input type="checkbox"/> Proprietary Information			
<input type="checkbox"/> Affidavits/declaration(s)	<input type="checkbox"/> Power of Attorney, Revocation Change of Correspondence Address	<input type="checkbox"/> Status Letter			
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<input type="checkbox"/> Express Abandonment Request	<input type="checkbox"/> Request for Refund	English translation of International Preliminary Examination Report; and postcard.			
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<input type="checkbox"/> Response to Missing Parts under 37 CFR 1.52 or 1.53					
<table border="1"> <tr> <td>Remarks</td> <td colspan="2">The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees that may be required under 37 CFR 1.16 or 1.17 to Deposit Account No. 08-0750. A duplicate copy of this sheet is enclosed.</td> </tr> </table>			Remarks	The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees that may be required under 37 CFR 1.16 or 1.17 to Deposit Account No. 08-0750. A duplicate copy of this sheet is enclosed.	
Remarks	The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees that may be required under 37 CFR 1.16 or 1.17 to Deposit Account No. 08-0750. A duplicate copy of this sheet is enclosed.				

SIGNATURE OF APPLICANT, ATTORNEY, OR AGENT

Firm or Individual name	Harness, Dickey & Pierce, P.L.C.	Attorney Name Christopher M. Brock	Reg. No. 27313
Signature			
Date	July 23, 2004		

CERTIFICATE OF TRANSMISSION/MAILING

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being facsimile transmitted to the USPTO or deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on the date shown below.

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This collection of information is required by 37 CFR 1.5. The information is required to obtain or retain a benefit by the public which is to file (and by the USPTO to process) an application. Confidentiality is governed by 35 U.S.C. 122 and 37 CFR 1.14. This collection is estimated to 12 minutes to complete, including gathering, preparing, and submitting the completed application form to the USPTO. Time will vary depending upon the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you require to complete this form and/or suggestions for reducing this burden, should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, U.S. Department of Commerce, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND TO: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

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PATENT COOPERATION TREATY

PCT

INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION REPORT

(PCT Article 36 and Rule 70)

Applicant's or agent's file reference 4035P130WO - ML/ha	FOR FURTHER ACTION See Notification of Transmittal of International Preliminary Examination Report (Form PCT/IPEA/416)	
International application No. PCT/EP2002/002840	International filing date (day/month/year) 14 March 2002 (14.03.2002)	Priority date (day/month/year) 22 May 2001 (22.05.2001)
International Patent Classification (IPC) or national classification and IPC F16P 3/00		
Applicant PILZ GMBH & CO.		

1. This international preliminary examination report has been prepared by this International Preliminary Examining Authority and is transmitted to the applicant according to Article 36.

2. This REPORT consists of a total of 4 sheets, including this cover sheet.

This report is also accompanied by ANNEXES, i.e., sheets of the description, claims and/or drawings which have been amended and are the basis for this report and/or sheets containing rectifications made before this Authority (see Rule 70.16 and Section 607 of the Administrative Instructions under the PCT).

These annexes consist of a total of _____ sheets.

3. This report contains indications relating to the following items:

- I Basis of the report
- II Priority
- III Non-establishment of opinion with regard to novelty, inventive step and industrial applicability
- IV Lack of unity of invention
- V Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement
- VI Certain documents cited
- VII Certain defects in the international application
- VIII Certain observations on the international application

Date of submission of the demand 12 December 2002 (12.12.2002)	Date of completion of this report 14 August 2003 (14.08.2003)
Name and mailing address of the IPEA/EP	Authorized officer
Facsimile No.	Telephone No.

INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION REPORT

International application No.

PCT/EP2002/002840

I. Basis of the report

1. With regard to the elements of the international application:*

the international application as originally filed
 the description:

pages _____ 1-16 _____, as originally filed
 pages _____ _____, filed with the demand
 pages _____, filed with the letter of _____

the claims:

pages _____ 1-11 _____, as originally filed
 pages _____ _____, as amended (together with any statement under Article 19
 pages _____ _____, filed with the demand
 pages _____, filed with the letter of _____

the drawings:

pages _____ 1/3-3/3 _____, as originally filed
 pages _____ _____, filed with the demand
 pages _____, filed with the letter of _____

the sequence listing part of the description:

pages _____ _____, as originally filed
 pages _____ _____, filed with the demand
 pages _____, filed with the letter of _____

2. With regard to the language, all the elements marked above were available or furnished to this Authority in the language in which the international application was filed, unless otherwise indicated under this item.

These elements were available or furnished to this Authority in the following language _____ which is:

the language of a translation furnished for the purposes of international search (under Rule 23.1(b)).
 the language of publication of the international application (under Rule 48.3(b)).
 the language of the translation furnished for the purposes of international preliminary examination (under Rule 55.2 and/or 55.3).

3. With regard to any nucleotide and/or amino acid sequence disclosed in the international application, the international preliminary examination was carried out on the basis of the sequence listing:

contained in the international application in written form.
 filed together with the international application in computer readable form.
 furnished subsequently to this Authority in written form.
 furnished subsequently to this Authority in computer readable form.
 The statement that the subsequently furnished written sequence listing does not go beyond the disclosure in the international application as filed has been furnished.
 The statement that the information recorded in computer readable form is identical to the written sequence listing has been furnished.

4. The amendments have resulted in the cancellation of:

the description, pages _____
 the claims, Nos. _____
 the drawings, sheets/fig. _____

5. This report has been established as if (some of) the amendments had not been made, since they have been considered to go beyond the disclosure as filed, as indicated in the Supplemental Box (Rule 70.2(c)).**

* Replacement sheets which have been furnished to the receiving Office in response to an invitation under Article 14 are referred to in this report as "originally filed" and are not annexed to this report since they do not contain amendments (Rule 70.16 and 70.17).

** Any replacement sheet containing such amendments must be referred to under item 1 and annexed to this report.

The above features are novel and industrially applicable and involve an inventive step, since none of the cited documents contains anything that suggests them.

2. Dependent Claims 2 to 10 contain advantageous embodiments of the safety switching module according to Claim 1 and therefore likewise meet the relevant requirements.
3. Claim 11 describes a method that corresponds to the above module and involves the following steps:
 - providing a first current path having at least one switching element;
 - providing a second current path having at least one switching element parallel to the first current path; and
 - alternately testing the switching-off capacity of one of the two current paths, the current path that is not being tested supplying the load alone.

This method is likewise novel and industrially applicable and involves an inventive step, since none of the cited documents contains anything that suggests it.

INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION REPORT

International application No.
PCT/EP 02/02840

V. Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement

1. Statement

Novelty (N)	Claims	1-11	YES
	Claims		NO
Inventive step (IS)	Claims	1-11	YES
	Claims		NO
Industrial applicability (IA)	Claims	1-11	YES
	Claims		NO

2. Citations and explanations

1. Claim 1 relates to a safety switching module having a first and second switch control device, and a first switching element and a second switching element connected in series thereto, the first switching element being controllable by the first switch control device and the second by the second switch control device, and it being possible to test the switching-off capacity of at least one switching element using an evaluation and control device. Modules of this type are known in general.

In order to enable the switching-off capacity of the switching elements to be tested also for large currents to be switched and/or capacitive or inductive loads, third and fourth switching elements are provided that are arranged in series with respect to each other and in parallel to the first series connection and form a second current path, the third switching element being controllable by the first switch control device and the fourth switching element by the second switch control device, and the evaluation and control device testing the switching elements alternatingly in one of the current paths.